

adoption of the *clauses* as a means of checking obstruction in the House of Commons. It unanimously approves of the proposal, and expresses cordial sympathy with Mr. Gladstone.

London, March 24th.

In the House of Commons, last night, the Queen's message recommending that special appropriation be made for a sum of £50,000 to Prince Leopold, was read into consideration. Mr. Gladstone moved that £10,000 per annum be granted to His Royal Highness. The proposal was met with opposition from the Radicals and Parlementaries, but was agreed to on division by a large majority, the minority consisting of 42 members only.

A meeting numerously and influentially attended, with the Prince of Wales at the chair, was held to-day, for the purpose of the establishment of a Royal College of Music. Amongst those present were Lord Kimberley, Sir Henry Parkes, the Agents-General of the colonies, and a number of gentlemen associated and interested in the colonies. It was resolved that an appeal be made to the colonists to co-operate in furtherance of the object.

The British chemists in St. Petersburg have been shot by the authorites to sell their businesses.

Commander Romilly has been appointed Deputy-Commissioner in the South Pacific, and is to reside at New Zealand.

London, 31st March.

General Strelenskow, public prosecutor, has been shot at Odessa. Two of the murderers have been arrested.

The Tsar has commuted the sentence of death passed on nine nihilists to penal servitude in Siberia.

London, 1st April.

Mr. Archibald, a Liberal, was elected for East Cornwall by a majority of two hundred.

The Russians have organised regular caravans to Persia.

The *Times* Street Industries, by Percy Russell, This Illustrated Pamphlet on Perfumery, &c., published at £1, may be had gratis from any Chemist or dealer in perfumery in the World, or John Gould and Co., London. [Adv.] [63]

The newspaper *Zorye* of Kieff, announces that thirty Jews have just left that place for Palestine, for the purpose of establishing themselves there as farmers. They travel to Palestine at their own expense, and take with them a capital of £2,000. Among them are some who have a fair mind to do something.

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INSURANCES.

SUN FIRE OFFICE.

The Undersigned are prepared from this date to GRANT POLICIES against FIRE to the extent of £50,000 on First-class Risks.

LINSTEAD & DAVIS, Agents, Sun Fire Office, Hongkong, 12th May, 1881. [17]

SCOTTISH IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, FIRE AND LIFE.

INSURANCES against FIRE granted at Current Rates. Considerable Reduction in Premium for LIFE INSURANCE in China.

MEYER & Co., Agents, Hongkong, 3rd June, 1881. [19]

THE CITY OF LONDON FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Agents for the above Company are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

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EXTRACTS.

LOVE'S ONLY CHANGE.

And did you think my heart
Could keep the love unchanged,
From the buds that start
In Spring, but find estranging?
Little did I then know,
I loved you once, but now—
I love you more than ever.

IT'S NOT THE EARLY LOVE.

With day and night it alters;
And onward still must move
The heart that loves the fakers
For seven or nine above.
I loved you once, but now—
I love you more than ever.

With rights in those glad days
How easily I thought you;
Youth, all the hope and praise;
There were the love-brought you;
In this world little stays;
I loved you once, but now—
I love you more than ever.

Alas! with a glorious love
He's in the grave—sleeping—
Sleeps in the silent tomb.
Then grows to manhood, keeping
His wistful, young surprise;
"I loved you once, but now—
I love you more than ever."

When you're pinching air
Stripes Saxon's rich possession
And leaves the branchion band.
My secret in confession
I loved you once, but now—
I love you more than ever.

GEORGE PARSONS LATIMORE.

GIANT SKY-SEARCHERS.

CAMBRIDGEPORT, MASS., JAN. 5, 1882.
Were it not for the astronomer's most valuable instrument, the telescope, our knowledge of the heavenly bodies would be as superficial and uninteresting as the theories of ignoramus could make it. The priority of the invention of the telescope is a matter of dispute, reaching far back into the past, but the question as to who has done the most for its development and perfection is not the man who has done mere fact, but by his inventions and discoveries that are, and have now lives in feeble old age in this out-of-the-way place, comparatively unknown, but possessing a name and reputation in the astronomical world which is overshadowed by none. The name of Alvan Clark is not generally recognized by the reading public, but it is the honored family title which the larger traces back to the voyagers on the *Mayflower*, and which has won its place upon the scroll of honor.

Alvan Clark was born at Marshfield, Mass., in 1806, and married to Miss Pease, of Conway, Mass., in 1827. As Mr. Clark's life is well nigh its close, it may not be out of place to tell the story of his early life, as received from his own lips, and to add something descriptive of himself and his surroundings. Born on a farm he labored in the fields until twenty-two years of age when having acquired considerable skill at painting by self-teaching he secured a position as a color engraver at Lowell. At this he worked until 1836, when he established himself as a portrait painter at Boston, achieving great success in that profession. He exhibits to-day to friends, small portraits of his brother painted by himself, which show remarkable talent.

ATTRACTED TO THE TELESCOPE.

During his leisure hours he delighted in studying the telescope. Possessed of no mathematical education he was thoroughly conversant with optical principles, however, and was thus enabled to construct a telescope which would have done credit to others further advanced in the science of construction. One day while watching his son making aystal reflector it occurred to him that he might be successful in the grinding of lenses. Acting upon the idea he soon produced glass lenses equal in quality to any made. This determined his after life. Giving up everything else he, with his sons, in 1846 commenced the manufacture of telescopes, and has since been unrivaled in the special work of figuring object glasses. He has no real competitor, the nearest being Thomas Cooke & Sons, of Munich; Grubb, of Dublin, and Cook, of York, England. Mr. Clark is of medium height, dark, with scaly hair, wears plain clothes and is entirely unpretentious in his manner. He is quite perfect, says Professor Newcomb, its customer, in the use of his telescope, and is entirely unpretentious in his manner. He is quite perfect, but does a little work occasionally, although the heaviest of it comes upon his two sons. He spends the greater part of his time in the "works" conversing with the workmen.

THE LENS FACTORY.

Mr. Clark's observatory and works are built in the garden of his house, which also contains two trial mounting tubes. The works were built in 1860, and during the war they were kept busy turning out field glasses and other optical instruments for the federal army. It was ten years, however, after Mr. Clark's establishment as a telescope maker, before his genius was appreciated. At the end of that time he was brought to the notice of the astronomers of the world by the Rev. W. R. Dawes, one of the leading amateur astronomers of England.

AN EIGHTEEN INCH LENS.

In 1860 the University of Mississippi ordered a telescope of Mr. Clark, with an aperture of eighteen inches, which was three inches larger than any made at the time. Before it was completed the war broke out, and the contracting party did not take it. It was afterwards sold to the Astronomical Society of Chicago, and was mounted in 1863. It was with this instrument that Alvan G. Clark, Mr. Clark's son, in 1862 discovered the companion of Sirius, receiving the award of the Lalande medal from the French Academy of Sciences. He was given \$100 in gold, however, preferring that sum to the medal. This gentleman has seen three total eclipses of the sun—one in 1869 at Shelbyville, Ky.; another in 1870 at Jerez, Spain, and a third in 1878 at Croton, W. T., on the Union Pacific Railroad, being with Professor Hartness at the time.

FOREIGN WORKMEN.

The workshop in which all the famous telescopes have been made is a small building two stories in height and contains some nine rooms. Seven men are now employed in the different departments, exclusive of the manager of the firm. The workmen are mostly foreigners, but one being of American birth. The reason of this, Mr. Clark says, is that Americans are too nervous to do the minute and exact work required, such as dividing a small circle of metal into 440 parts. Although not easily accessible, the works have received many distinguished visitors in its time, Dom Pedro being one of the many.

LENS GRINDING.

The process of lens grinding, so far as it goes, is a very interesting one. The glass itself has been heretofore obtained from Chance & Co., of Birmingham, England, but now it is received from Paris. The glass from which small lenses are made is generally cast in thick sheets, while that for the largest ones comes in disks, slightly curved. The first rough grinding of the large glasses is done by machinery, the grindstone being a rapidly revolving equatorial concave iron wheel, over which a small stream of water and granulated iron is kept running. This wears away the glass very fast, preparing it for the second process, which is a finer grinding with iron tools and emery. Then follows the special local work of correcting the spherical aberrations of the glass. This work is principally done by Alvan G. Clark, the son, and his brother, George B. Clark, although there is one man in their employ who is also capable of doing it. This local application is more than half of the whole work on large glasses, and requires a knowledge which years and experience alone give. It is a very slow operation, as the glass has to be slightly heated, taken to the observation room, the United States sand \$78,000 was expended.

there tested and corrected. An observation cannot be taken oftener than once in two hours, consequently but little can be done in a day. The observation has to be kept cold and dark, and working in it is very disagreeable. The lathe operation on the glass itself is that of polishing, which is done with pitch and rouge, days and even weeks being necessary to bring it to its required condition.

A UNIQUE INSTRUMENT.

Besides manufacturing lenses for telescopes, all kinds of special optical instruments are made by the Clarks. They are now engaged in making a photometer of a special design (prepared by Professor Pickering, of the Cambridge Observatory), which is to be used in measuring the quantity of light of stars. This instrument is the only one of its particular kind in the world. At the time the American observing party went West to view the transit of Venus the Clarks were called upon to supply a heliostat to be used in photographing the transit. They did by executing a piece of work which has never been surpassed and which was marvelous in its precision.

SERIAL FILMERS.

Among other parts of the telescope which they make, and for the correctness of which they have attained a world wide reputation is the micrometer to go on the eyepieces of telescopes, and which is used in measuring the distances and angles of position between stars. To do this two spider filaments are used, but even these are too coarse for the purposes intended, as very often a star is easily hidden by them. The sidereal clock is another wonderful piece of work, and is used to record the time a star crosses the meridian. The double eyepiece, of which Mr. Clark is the inventor, is an ingenious and valuable instrument for measuring small celestial arcs from 3 minutes to 60 minutes.

GREAT TELESCOPE.

The special work of the Clarks, and the one on which their reputation is based, is, as before stated, in the grinding of lenses. Their first telescopes were six inches in aperture and did not fit on the eyepieces of telescopes, and which is used in measuring the distances and angles of position between stars. To do this two spider filaments are used, but even these are too coarse for the purposes intended, as very often a star is easily hidden by them. The sidereal clock is another wonderful piece of work, and is used to record the time a star crosses the meridian. The double eyepiece, of which Mr. Clark is the inventor, is an ingenious and valuable instrument for measuring small celestial arcs from 3 minutes to 60 minutes.

THE PRINCIPAL TELESCOPE.

Princeton College, at Princeton, N. J., is soon to have a telescope which will far outrank any in size and definition owned by an American college. The object glass, which is twenty-three inches in clear aperture, is all finished, and now lies boxed up ready for transportation at the works. So near is the entire instrument to its completion that the Clarks expect to mount it next March. It will be a splendid piece of work in its entirety, and is to be mounted equatorially on the German plan. It will have the necessary devices to secure its proper balances, steadiness and easy motion in all positions, with its clamps and slow motion screws, so constructed and arranged that they can be conveniently operated by the observer without taking his eye from the eyepiece of the instrument. A suitable apparatus for spectroscopic reversal is furnished, with a driving clock sufficiently regular and powerful to secure an equable and steady motion in right ascension. It will be electrically controlled, either from the standard sidereal clock of the college observatory, or from a subsidiary clock, with a suitable compensation pendulum, this control being substantially provided for the same purpose at the Dan Ecliptic Observatory, in Scotland. It is provided with divided circles, each read by two microscopes, the declination circle reading from the eye end of the telescope to ten seconds of time. The telescope is so arranged that the observer without leaving the eyepiece can conveniently set the instrument, both in right ascension and declination, with sufficient accuracy to find any celestial object whose place is known. It has two finders, one of four and one-half inches of clear aperture, the other of two inches, the larger finder being so constructed as to be capable of having attached to it all the eyepieces and subsidiary optical apparatus of the telescope except the spectroscope, filar micrometer and helioscope. It has the usual proper equipment, eyepieces, in micrometers, diagonal prisms, Heschel solar eyepiece and its proper shade glasses, a polarizing eyepiece and a flat micrometer, measuring distances and angles of positions, its illumination giving either dark wires upon a bright field, or controlled by the observer without the necessity of removing his eyepiece. It is also provided with a Barlow achromatic doublet lens of two inches diameter and about one foot focal length, so fitted to the filar micrometer as approximately to double the magnifying power of its eyepieces, besides a double image micrometer for observing both distances and positions of angles fitted with lenses which give two different powers. A prismatic apparatus is provided for correcting the atmospheric dispersion of low altitudes, and a photometer. It has a spectroscope suitable for the determination of the displacement of the dark lines in stellar spectra, provided with proper micrometers and auxiliary apparatus for comparing spectra and for bringing the image of the star upon the slit of the spectroscope. The focal length of the telescope does not exceed thirty feet and is furnished with an arrangement by which the adjustment of the centering of the object glass can be effected by the observer from the glass end without removing the eye from the eyepiece.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN AS AN OBSERVATIONIST.

Two years ago last September Otto Struve, director of the Observatory of Pulkowa, Russia, visited the Clarks as their representatives of the Czar and contracted with them for an achromatic astronomical object glass with a clear aperture of thirty inches. The terms defined were as follows:—The definition of the glass is to be in all respects not inferior to that of the one at the United States Naval Observatory, and the amount of light to be greater in proportion to the increased area of the object glass, allowance being made for the absorption of the light by the glass. When the rough disks were ready for figuring the Clarks were to submit for Struve's approval their plan for fixing the glasses in their cell. Struve was then to designate the ratio of the focal length of the objective to its aperture, and ratio not to be less than 13.1 nor greater than 20.1, and the Clarks were then to make the focal length contours to this ratio within one-fourth of its whole amount. Struve is to designate what two rays or portion of the solar spectrum shall be brought to one focus by the combined action of the lenses. When the objective glasses are completed the Clarks are to construct a rough reversible equatorial mounting for them, including a tube of such size, form and thickness as Struve may direct, the whole to be made to fit the cell. The objective is to be so arranged that the ancient mode of stopping their part has proved absolutely ineffective, and stringent measures must be adopted to put a curb upon their tongues. Yet, strange to say, the chief obstructor on the Liberal side, and the most frequent and lengthy speaker on the Liberal benches, is Mr. Chamberlain himself. No English, Scotch or Welsh member of Parliament, who entered the House for the first time, when he did, viz., in June, 1876, has spoken much, has asked as many questions, or been on his legs anything like the number of times, as he who now brings this charge of "unreasonable vanity and excessive loquacity" against the whole House. To "Obstruction" he owes his seat in the Cabinet. In the year 1879 he was the leader of the House for the first time, when he did, viz., in June, 1876, has spoken much, has asked as many questions, or been on his legs anything like the number of times, as he who now brings this charge of "unreasonable vanity and excessive loquacity" against the whole House. To "Obstruction" he owes his seat in the Cabinet. 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